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LECTURE CXIX.

THE INDIAN ARMY AND THE FUTURE.

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(*From the Asiatic Review*).

The Indian Army dates back really to 1683 when 200 Rajputs, under their own officers, were recruited by the East India Company's Administration in Bombay as part of its protective forces. The Goanese, however, argue that they should come into the picture, because among the Company's troops which those Rajaputs joined, were some soldiers called Topasses, who, to the number of 54, had been recruited from the Goanese in 1562. For about 100 years these Topasses were part of the army in India. To-day their name is kept green in the liners which travel eastward. Their military duties have been forgotten, but their usefulness as bath-attendants is widely recognized. The word topaz is derived from top cannon, and recalls the use of coarse black powder in the artillery of the time. After discharge the smouldering powder remained in the gun-barrel, which had to be washed out before a new charge could be introduced. So a washer was essential, and he was called a topaz. His occupation to-day as a washer-out of ships' baths is not inappropriate. Topasses recruited by the East India Company were orginally members of the old Moghul armies.

Those, of course, were very tentative efforts at organizing military forces with the limited objective of protecting the East India Company's depôts. When the Company took upon itself larger obligations, higher military

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standards had to be applied. Starting with Clive's organization at the time of the Battle of Plassey in 1757, the Indian Army, at the end of the eighteenth century, had become a truly important factor of the army in India.

In 1858, when the high responsibilities of the East India Company were transferred to the Crown and the Company's European troops were absorbed by the British Army, the foundations of the Indian Army as we know it to-day may be said to have been effectively laid. It was not until 1895 that the three Presidency Armies were abolished, and the term "Indian Army" came to have a true significance. Even then it was not officially applied before 1903, when the Indian Staff Corps was abolished, and British officers, as well as the rank and file of Indian units, were formed into one Corps entitled the Indian Army.

MODERNIZATION.

By that time modernization as understood in those days had its way. A reserve was already in existence, but still 36 out of 39 of the Indian Cavalry regiments remained at the outbreak of war in 1914 on a silladar basis. That is to say, the troopers, like the yeomanry of olden days in England, paid at a higher rate than non-silladar troopers, had to supply and maintain their horses. clothing, equipment and arms (with the exception of the rifle). The pressure of the Great War effectively hastened the abolition of this system. It officially disappeared in 1922.

Kitchener's organization of 1904 had put the army in India on a workman-like basis, primarily with an eye to defence of the Frontier. It was only dimly foreseen that in a few years' time Indian troops would be serving in Europe in Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotomia, Persia, East Africa, Cyrenaica and Gallipoli. That was hidden from us then, but, as always, the Indian Army had to be prepared for active service.

Now not only has the Royal Air Force long helped to strengthen India's defences, but an Indian Air Force has taken shape, and has no difficulty in securing recruits. In those days the Royal Flying Corps had not even begun to function. In 1912, on a holiday in Mussoorie, a young captain of the Gurkhas joined our party, one afternoon, in a picnic tea on a spur overlooking the Dun valley.

He had just been selected as one of the first batch of Indian Army officers to be trained at the new Army Flying School projected at Sitapur. He tried to impress us with the enormous possibilities of flying, but some of us reluctantly accepted his view that in time aeroplanes would be able to fly passengers up to the hills!

That officer's name was Cyril Newall. We could not be expected to foresee that he would emerge with distinction from the World War of 1914-18,

as a veteran officer of the R. A. F., and would be the chief of the Royal Air Force for the first year of the present war.

The essential feature of the Indian Army, as it developed in the nineteenth century and the early days of the twentieth century, was its professional character. The primary duty of watching the Frontier of India implied a readiness for active service at the shortest possible notice. Indeed, part of the Indian Army has always to be prepared for war, for seldom is that unquiet, mountainous strip of border territory entirely at peace.

The value of Indian experience to the fighting soldier is well recognized by the British Army. It inspired Lord Kitchener in 1914, at the time of the Empire's great need for troops fit to stand in France beside the famous "Contemptibles." Hence his call to India for the Indian divisions which took with them the highly seasoned regular British regiments to hold the line, their replacement in India by Territorials being swiftly effected.

There is no wonder that the Indian Army treasures traditions, for its record is rich with them. For instance, the Viceroy's Bodyguard carries battle honours, a fact which may surprise many people. It is now composed of Punjabi Mussalmans and Sikhs. When it was first raised in Benares in 1773, it was known as the Governor's Troop of Moguls. Its battle honours are seven, namely : Java, Ava, Maharajpore, Moodkee, Forozeshah, Aliwal and Sobraon. The last four names recall the almost accidental participation of the Bodyguard in the Sikh wars. The story goes that Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy of the day, exercised his authority to vary the dispositions of the commander of the forces in the field, a situation which could hardly occur to-day !

Recruitment to the Indian Army is voluntary. Recruits are drawn almost entirely from the yeoman and agricultural classes, but the recent expansion in such technical services as the Ordnance and Army service Corps broadened the basis of recruitment, and thus enabled the townsman to serve. Success in recruitment derives greatly from family traditions, which ordain that son, grandson or great-grandson goes to the regiment of his forebear. By this means, villages throughout India are kept in touch with the Army. A sentimental bond, practically strengthened by economic considerations, is forged.

INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

The British or King's commissioned officer takes a close interest in the family of his Viceroy's commissioned officer or other ranks. Officers' wives make it a point to know the domestic side of the soldier's life. A regiment is therefore well buttressed by that family feeling which plays so vital a part in all Indian affairs.

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In the last year of the World War of 1914-18 the gallantry of the Indian Army led to the decision to make Indians eligible for cadetships at Sandhurst. King's commissioned Indian officers began to take their places in the regiments. The subsequent need for giving greater facilities for such appointments than Sandhurst could afford led to the opening of the Indian Sandhurst at Dehra Dun in 1932. In the award of the first Indian Victoria Cross of the present war to an Indian officer from Dehra Dun, that young college has found a brilliant justification and encouragement.

Further to cement the bonds between the soldier and the country he serves, Soldiers' Boards, on which retired service men sit, look after the interests of the soldier's family. These boards keep in close touch with General Headquarters, and thus the Government's desire to ensure that service in the army is profitable, as well as honourable, is assisted to fulfilment. Grants of land, scholarships for soldiers' children, appointments in civil life, all help to supplement the pension.

Care for the soldier's well-being enhances the military strength of the Indian Army. Trained in every modern weapon, and constantly engaged in fighting in difficult country, the officers and men of the Indian Army have been welded into a formidable fighting machine, adaptable, disciplined and steadfast. The exacting demands of campaigns amid the rugged hills of Waziristan with the deep ravines, the gaunt rock ledges, the grilling heat of summer and the bitter cold of winter when the hillsides are covered with snow, guarantee that troops so seasoned are ready to take in their stride any terrain—whether it be in the bleak passes of Abyssinia or Eritrea or the trackless sands of Libya.

Of these Indian fighters let it finally be said that more than two centuries of comradeship with British officers and British regiments have engendered a mutual confidence and esteem which both British and Indians hallow. It gives understanding of the greatest value in the field, as in peacetime cantonments.

In this spirit, too, the Gurkhas, who come from the independent kingdom of Nepal to add to the Indian Army their martial battalions, fight and work side by side with British and Indians alike.

This brotherhood gives India and the Empire a fine inspiration. It stands out in sharp contrast to the soulless mass-machanization which tries to masquerade under Nazi rule as a "New Order". It is an association of free men willingly accepting a common discipline to effect the common purpose of defending human liberty.

IN THE PRESENT WAR.

Until 1939 the defence of India was based on the principle that India protected her own frontiers, and Great Britain took full responsibility for defending her against attacks by any great Power. Lord Chatfield's Committee in that year recommended the immediate variance of that view owing to the changes in the technique of modern warfare, especially the increase of mobility produced by the mechanized unit and the bombers and fighters in the air. **So India became responsible for co-operating in the defence of her overseas frontiers in Egypt and Malaya.** The outbreak of war found India therefore only on the verge of this important change. In fact, coincident with mechanization it was proposed to reduce the numbers of the Indian Army as a set-off against the additional expense involved in modernization. The outbreak of war turned thoughts away from reduction to expansion, but this expansion was conditioned by the equipment available, the rate at which output could be increased, and, above all, the collection of the requisite staff to train new officers required in such large numbers. So Indian troops sent overseas to Africa actually learnt to handle the new mechanized vehicles and arms in sight of the enemy. **General Auchinleck has testified to the efficiency with which they adapted themselves to this demand. Sidi Barrani, Keren, Amba Alaga—to cite only three notable scenes of valour—proved the worth of the new Indian Army.**

The 5,00,000 mark was reached in the middle of July, 1941. **That figure has now been doubled, thanks to the increase in the speed of training and the output of material, but the Army in India still requires improvement, both in quality and quantity of material for its equipment.** Moreover, India is not yet self-supporting in all branches of munitions supply. War measures have radically modified the recruiting problems of the Indian Army. The net has been thrown wider by raising new regiments in Assam, Bihar and Bengal. The Madras regiment has been reconstituted. Mahar, Mzbhi and Ramdassia Sikhs are being enrolled. The Territorial Force has been converted into regular units. The Rawlinson scheme for the Indianization of eight (afterwards twenty-one) units has been scrapped. All units are now open to Indian commissioned officers, the course at Dehra Dun being shortened from 2½ years to 18 months, a new training school at Mhow being opened and the Indian wing of the AIRO being called up. Further improvements were effected by enabling Bangalore, which hitherto had trained only British cadets, to take in 100 Indian cadets, and Mhow, formerly exclusively for Indians, to take in 100 British cadets, thus bringing the two schools on the same footing. These are all measures which must be regarded as war expedients, but it is hoped that in the main they will be found to be justified as the basis of a permanent organization.

The cabled war despatches have told how the Indian Army in this war has upheld its long traditions. They show that the new type of officer has made good. We know, as I have said, that the Indian soldier is a voluntary recruit, just as these young officers have of set choice accepted a military career. **Yet for the life of me I cannot see why those who champion India's claim to self-Government, Dominion Status, or what you will, invariably ignore or belittle this magnificent contribution to the Empire's defence.** This contribution deserves the epithet I have given it, but it must not be forgotten that the Indian Army was numerically small and within the rigid limitations imposed by financial considerations it achieved a fine standard of efficiency. It would, however, be futile to ignore the cramping effect of financial stringency, as indeed was recognized by the action taken on the Chatfield Report. That makes it all the more regrettable that an unhappy technique has consistently impelled certain sections of the Indian Press to minimize the value of India's military resources. Cannot this attitude be abandoned to-day? India's claims to equal partnership in the Empire are insulted by being given the support of misrepresentations of the past. British achievements in India have not been faultless. **They do, however, include the development of the teamwork which has made the idea of an Indian nation—the dream of thousands of years past—practical and on the point of fulfilment. The future rulers of India are unfairly handicapped by such vilification of their predecessors.** It minimizes the difficulties of their task and exposes them, therefore, to the dangers of unjustified disappointment and possibly impetuous criticism.

A PROFESSIONAL ARMY.

In the past few weeks exposition of the political problem of India has been accompanied by a spate of fustian of this sort. We hear of "150 years of British rule," "India's exclusion from the Atlantic Charter," "British exploitation of India," and if the India Army is mentioned it is dismissed as "a mercenary army." One critic thought he was casting sufficient aspersion on it to call it "professional." Well, that is just the point which I should make. **The Indian Army is professional, and thank God for that. Moreover, it has long managed to show not only the comradeship of British and Indians, but the comradeship of Indians of all races in arms.** The other day a commentator who should know better accused Mr. Amery of failing to arm the Hindus. How Mr. Amery could have armed the Hindus in a couple of years so that they could become something more than cannon fodder the sapient critic did not reveal. To cheer him up it might be well to remind him that Dogras, Rajputs, Jats, Mahrattas—to take only four of India's finest fighting materials—are Hindus, and their arming has fortunately been a fact of long standing. I have met and talked with some of the young officers of the Indian Army belonging to families well known in Indian politics. They do not conceal their fervent

belief in Indian nationalism. They are not inclined to criticize the Congress Party's policy. To some extent they look upon that as a useful goad to keep the Government up to the mark. They quite naturally feel that the official machine moved too slowly in extending facilities for them to become officers in the army. It was not until 1932 that Dehra Dun was opened under the auspices of Sir Philip Chetwode.

As for the Indian soldier, he is sharing in the general advance of thought. Look at the *Fauji Akbar* and you will realize how different is the mentality of the modern sepoy from that of his predecessor. The two have happily certain qualities in common: **the finest courage, keen sense of discipline, love of their family and the soil from which they spring. The Indian soldier to-day has learnt much, too, from his service overseas from contacts which it has brought him with other troops in the Empire.**

In the future when India returns to peacetime conditions there will be massive problems to solve. Her new standing in international affairs is recognized. Her tutelage has been exchanged for independent partnership. Besides being one of the world's great agricultural countries, she will be a foremost industrial nation. The machinery of her administration will be all the more exacting in its demands on the intelligence, patriotism and vigour of her sons—aye, and daughters. The men who have fought her battles in the field, who have worked for her sustenance and modern armament, will be competent to take charge of the post-war reconstruction plans. They will have the right. Somehow I feel that much of our political hesitations and diffidences to-day will seem to them irrelevant and of little account. **In combining against a common enemy and overcoming him, the sense of unity has been so paramount that it should be able to survive for enhanced application when stress of battle being past, there arrives the more difficult task of aligning the new India with a world's endeavour to establish social and economic sanity among its peoples.**

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

24—10—42 to 30—10—42.

Russia.—Snow is falling in STALINGRAD; autumn storms are raging and mud impedes operations. The fighting is on a reduced scale. Two months have passed since the attack on the city began and two *blitz* assaults have been made but the city of steel holds on. The Germans now cannot get out of STALINGRAD. That is the present paradoxical situation. They can neither withdraw with safety nor have they the power to advance. Aided by a

spell of good weather in the last few days the Germans, after taking the Dzerjinsky Tractor Works are attacking the October Red Steel Factory. But in spite of shelling and bombing the underground workshops are still functioning. With the Germans reaching the bank of the Volga the reinforcement of the city is becoming difficult.

Marshal Timoshenko's relieving forces, thrusting north and south of the city have made some progress in relieving the besieged garrison and are also said to be in contact with the enemy in the northernmost suburbs of the city.

Though the position north of TUAPSE has worsened in the last few days Russian resistance has also stiffened. At MOZDOK the Germans are still being checkmated.

Egypt.—The British Offensive—the third of its kind—started on October 24 in full moon, with well co-ordinated attacks from land, sea and air is an all-out effort. Advanced units of the Eighth army have penetrated the enemy's positions at certain points and the crust of his defensive line of mines hidden artillery and anti-tank barrier of wire fence has been broken and the gaps so made are being widened. The number of German and Italian prisoners is 15,000 nearly. Rommel is solidly defending his front, with one end resting on the sea and the other on the Quattara Depression, with deep defences in depth along a narrow front.

Solomons.—

Oct. 19—Japanese aircraft attacked American positions in GUADALCANAR.

Oct. 19–20—American navy aircraft attacked and damaged a Japanese cruiser off GUADALCANAR.

Oct. 20–21—American navy aircraft bombed enemy supply dumps.

Oct. 21—2 U. S. destroyers were lost and a Japanese cruiser and destroyer were damaged in a naval action.

Oct. 22–23—The Japanese landed on RUSSEL ISLAND, which lies between GUADALCANAR and NEW GEORGIA. A Japanese submarine shelled ESPIRITU SANTO in NEW HEBRIDES. Enemy ships were attacked in the SHORTLAND ISLAND area and one of his light cruisers and one destroyer were damaged, and one heavy cruiser (or battleship) was possibly damaged. The enemy bombed the GUADALCANAR air-field.

Oct. 23–24—The Japanese made a tank and artillery attack on the western defences of GUADALCANAR and were repulsed.

Oct. 24—Another similar enemy attack was repulsed.

Oct. 24–25. U. S. aircraft attacked Japanese vessels : one cruiser was probably damaged.

Oct. *25*—Enemy troops were landed on the N. W. end of GUADALCANAR. Japanese vessels were attacked north of FLORIDA ISLAND. One cruiser was damaged. The U. S. destroyer *Seminole* was sunk.

Oct. 25–26—The Pacific Fleet Task Force exchanged air-attacks. 22 Japanese planes were shot down. Two Japanese aircraft carriers, two heavy cruisers and one light cruiser were damaged. The American destroyer *Porter* was sunk.

Enemy troops were active on GUADALCANAR and succeeded in piercing the American lines on the south-side of the air-field. Army troops threw back the attack and regained their positions.

New Guinea.—The Japanese were ejected from EORA CREEK, 12 miles south of KOKODA. Their positions between KOKODA and DENIKUND were bombed. The Allies are also attacking from ALOLA.

The Aleutians.—Two raids were carried out on KISKA on October 23 and 24.

China.—*Oct. 17 and 18*—Japanese attacked points in N. E. ICHANG and W. HUPEH and raided MENGTZ in S. E. YUNNAN.

Oct 20—Chinese troops attacked points in the vicinity of SWATOW. Allied bombers attacked PEKING and LINSI.

Oct. 25—Allied planes bombed HONGKONG and KOWLOON.

Oct 26—Allied planes attacked North Point Power Station in HONGKONG and White Cloud Power Station north-east of CANTON.

India and Burma—

Oct. 17—Allied aircraft strafed railway stations north of MOHNYIN in BURMA, and two towns near MYITKYINA.

Oct. 18—An enemy plane was intercepted, attacked and hit near DIGBOI, ASSAM.

Oct. 25—Enemy air craft attacked American air-fields in the Dibrugarh area in N. E. Assam. Two of them were shot down. The enemy destroyed several transport air craft. Two men were killed and five were injured. Civilian labourers displayed high morale.

Oct. 26—The Allies attacked AKYAB and set fire to enemy occupied buildings. In another raid on an aerodrome in N. E. ASSAM the enemy lost four planes.

Madagascar—

Oct. 25—British forces occupied AMBOHIMAHASO, 175 miles south of ANTANANARIVO.

Air-Raids.—The following were the chief R. A. F. targets of the week:—

Oct. 21—Military objectives in HOLLAND, and DORTSMUND Ems Canal.

Oct. 22—TURIN and GENOA.

Oct. 23—The Fiat Car works in TURIN.

Oct. 24-25—MILAN.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
19—10—42. (Monday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—				
	Laying mines in enemy waters.			
	EGYPT and LIBYA.			
	The railway engine near EL DABA.			
	Railways and rail communications in MERSA MATRUH and SIDI BARRANI area.	Railway wagons destroyed.		
	Shipping and harbour installations at TOBRUK.			
	Enemy aircraft on landing grounds at SIDI HANEISH, FUKA and DABA.			
	Motor transport in the battle area.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	Enemy shipping near LAMPEDUSA.			
	A schooner south of CRETE.	Sunk.		
	RUSSIA.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Russian Front.			
	FAR EAST.			
	NEW GUINEA.			
	Jap positions in the KOKODA area.			
	SOLOMONS.			
	Enemy troops and supply concentrations on GUDALCANAR.			
	REKATA BAY.			
	3 enemy destroyers west of GUDALCANAR.	1 destroyer damaged.		
	ALEUTIANS.			
	Shore installations at KISKA.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
20—10—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—			
Targets near HANOVER, WILHELMSHAVEN and at BREMEN.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Air combats over EGYPT.		3 planes.	11 planes.
Enemy transport along the coastal road.			
Axis landing grounds and installations behind the battle area.			3 planes.
The harbour and shipping at TOBRUK EL DABA.			
Stores, dumps and vehicles in the battle area.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST.			
SOLOMONS.			
An enemy cruiser west of GUDALCANAR.	Directly hit.		
Supply dumps and enemy positions north-west of GUDALCANAR.			
ALEUTIANS.			
KISKA.			
NEW GUINEA.			
KOKODA.			
BURMA.			
The aerodrome, the railway siding and enemy-occupied buildings and huts at MONYWA.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
21—10—42 (Wednesday)			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—			
A military camp on the DUTCH-GERMAN camp.	Both hit.	No loss.	
A factory and gasometer at LATHEN.			
Objectives on the DORTSMUND-EMS canal.			
Aerodromes and other objectives in HOLLAND.			
The submarine base at LORIENT.		3 planes.	9 fighters.
An aerodrome at MAUPERTUS (near CHERBOURG).			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Enemy landing grounds in the EL DABA area.			
Air combats over the landing grounds.			3 planes.
Lorries, ammunition trucks and vehicles on the road between GAMBUT and SIDI BARRANI.			
Enemy landing grounds and tents in the battle area.			
CRETE.			
Aerodrome at MALEME.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats over the whole battle field.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW BRITAIN.			
Enemy shipping in the harbour at RABAUL.			
An enemy launch near GASMATA.			
The shores of LUSCHAN harbour.			
TIMOR.			
Enemy occupied town of MAOBISSE.			
CHINA.			
Kilan mining administration near KUYUEN.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
22—10—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—			
A goods train in northern FRANCE.			
The Marshaling yards at AMIENS.			
Two armed trawlers off the FRENCH coast.			
Industrial objectives in north-west GERMANY and the RUHR.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Enemy landing grounds in the FUKA area. **Dumps and encampments** at FUKA. **Road targets** between MATRUH and SOLLUM. **Air combats** over enemy aerodromes. **Enemy motor transport** along the coastal road.	Many more enemy planes damaged.	6 planes.	6 planes. 1 plane.
ITALY.			
The port and naval base at GENOA.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Easter Front.			
FAR EAST.			
NEW GUINEA.			
Reconnaissance over BUNA.			
SOLOMONS.			
Enemy shipping at BUIN.			
23—10—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—			
Targets in Northern FRANCE, HOLLAND and GERMANY.			
EGYPT and LIBYA.			
Enemy landing grounds in the forward areas			
Air combats over the landing grounds.	More planes damaged.	4 planes.	8 planes.
Enemy position in the battle area.			
TOBRUK.			
ITALY.			
GENOA	Big fires started.		
TURIN.			
SAVONIA.			
RUSSIA.			
Air combats all over the Eastern Front.			
FAR EAST			
NEW GUINEA.			
Enemy position between DENIKIUND and KOKODA.			
ALEUTIANS.			
KISKA.			
NEW BRITAIN.			
Shipping concentration at RABAUL.	One cruiser, a destroyer and 8 cargo ships sunk.	No loss.	
24—10—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY:—			
Offensive patrols over Northern FRANCE, HOLLAND, and GERMANY.			
A factory at HENGELO (HOLLAND).			
Locomotives in Northern FRANCE.		2 planes.	
NIGHT:—			
Aerodromes, factories, a railway station and other railway targets in Northern FRANCE.			

EGYPT and LIBYA.

Gaps in the minefield in the battle area.

Enemy ground forces in the battle area.

An ammunition dump near the battle area. Very big explosion started.

Offensive sweeps over the forward areas.

ITALY.

DAY:—

Industrial objectives at MILAN. Very big fires started.

NIGHT:—

The port and dockyard at GENOA.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire Russian front. For the week Oct. 17th to Oct. 24th. 5 planes. 114 planes.

FAR EAST.

NEW GUINEA.

The aerodrome at LAE.

NEW BRITAIN.

Enemy shipping at RABAUL. A 17,600 ton sea-plane tender sunk.

SOLOMONS.

Enemy surface force 300 miles north-east of GUDALCANAR. 1 cruiser sunk.

BUIN.

25—10—42 (Sunday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.

DAY:—

Railways and other targets in occupied territory.

EGYPT and LIBYA.

Straffing enemy position in the battle area.

Enemy armoured vehicles and other mobile forces behind the enemy's lines.

Offensive sweeps over the forward areas. 7 planes.

Landing grounds at FUKA and DABA.

Merchant vessel along the AFRICAN coast.

TOBRUK.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Russian Front.

FAR EAST

NEW BRITAIN.

Enemy shipping in the harbour at RABAUL.

NEW GUINEA.

An area south of WAIROPI.

NEW IRELAND.

Enemy fuel dumps at KAUIENG.

TIMOR.

An aerodrome at KOEPANG.

SOLOMONS.

Enemy force of Cruisers north of FLORIDA Island.

The air field at GUDALCANAR.

HONGKONG.

Docks and shipping in the HONGKONG area.

Docks, warehouses and shipping in the HONGKONG-KOWLOON area.

HONGKONG. 13 planes.

KOWLOON.

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
20—10—42 (Tuesday).				
	BRITAIN.			
	No information available.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.		1 plane.	No lose.
	RUSSIA.			
	STALINGRAD.			
	Russian defences in the MOZDOK area.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies
21—10—42 (Wednesday).				
		BRITAIN.		
DAY:—	A place in south-west ENGLAND.			
NIGHT:—				
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.		4 planes.	
		RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.			
		FAR EAST. SOLOMONS.		
	The airfield at GUDALCANAR.		2 planes.	9 planes.
22—10—42 (Thursday).				
		BRITAIN.		
MORNING:—	A few places on the coastal districts in LONDON.			
NIGHT:—	No air activity.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.		5 planes.	
		RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.			
		FAR EAST. SOLOMONS.		
	The airfield at GUADALCANAR.			
23—10—42 (Friday).				
		BRITAIN.		
DAY:—	A few points on the CHANNEL coast.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.		3 planes.	
		RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.			
		FAR EAST. NEW GUINEA.		
	Port MORESBY.			
		SOLOMONS.		
	The air [illegible] GUDALCANAR.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses fo Enemies.	Aircraft losses fo Allies.
24—10—42 (Saturday).				
		BRITAIN.		
NIGHT:—	A town on the east coast and north-east coast of LONDON.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.			
		RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.			
25—10—42 (Sunday).				
		BRITAIN.		
NIGHT:—	A town in the MIDLANDS; two places on the south-east coast of ENGLAND.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.		1 plane.	
		RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.			
		FAR EAST. SOLOMONS.		
	GUDALCANAR.			
		INDIA.		
	An aerodrome in ASSAM.			
26—10—42 (Monday).				
DAY:—	Several areas in Southern ENGLAND.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.			
		RUSSIA.		
	STALINGRAD.			
		FAR EAST. AUSTRALIA.		
	Port DARWIN.			
		SOLOMONS.		
	GUADALCANAR.			
		INDIA.		
	An air field in ASSAM.			

SIDE LIGHTS..

WINNING THE PEACE. It is significant that in his speech on October 21 to the combined Houses of the British Legislature, Field Marshal Smuts, the South African Premier dwelt for the greater part of his time on the shape of things to come, on post-war reconstruction. He also dwelt, it is true, at the outset, on the past as a prelude to the present and described the period between the present war and the past as a feverish armistice. He also dwelt on the present phase of the war as one of preparation for a hopeful and early offensive which it would be folly 'to delay, over-prepare and perhaps miss.' But his main theme was the future. He rang out, we are passing beyond ordinary politics and political shibboleths. It is no longer a case of Socialism, or Communism or 'any other Isms of the market place, but of achieving common Justice and fair play for all.' This war, he added, is a crusade for man's fredom. What is the sort of world, he asked, which we envisage as our objective after the war ? What sort of social and international order are we aiming at ? It is curious that such questions have been asked in the course of the present war, with bombs literally raining round. In mid-Atlantic Roosevelt and Churchill asked these questions in the midst of the throes of the war and answered by framing the Atlantic Charter and later Roosevelt defined the four freedoms in his call to his nation. It is because wars, like people, require a vision to sustain them. Without a vision a people perish and wars are lost. Wars become butchery without the hope of a better world. We may leave the world better than we found it. But the practical men of an age—its statesmen and soldiers cannot rest content with merely fancying a Utopia or Atlantis : they must *build* the future in the present. They must do so not only for the distant purposes of the human race but also for the immediate purposes of the war, in order to give the faith that will conquer, the courage to die and win. So Smuts tells us that we have accepted the name of the United Nations—a variant, it is true, but an advance on the League of Nations, less ambitious than the League but more practical, better organised and more international. The Atlantic Charter is the Magna Charta of the United Nations which though only in out-like yet formulates the best and just hopes of humanity—preparatory, as it were, to a Parliament of Man and a Federation of the World—the dream of poets and philosophers. Finally, the concept of international policing and arming, to keep down the brigands of the future is a new implementing for the old dreams to come true.

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A CONTRAST. Wendell Willkie's NEW YORK broadcast on October 27, we feel, though it is a call to the American people to brace up and therefore welcome, and though like

Smut's speech before the British Parliament, it refers to planning and keeping the world's peace 'on a global basis' lacks the responsibility of the utterance of the elder statesman. It is the difference between experience and irresponsibility. 'Wipe out the distinction between the first class and second class allies, he says, as if the varying march of Nations through the centuries and the differences in their strategic values could be wiped out. The supply of American war material to the fighting Allies is 'tragically small', he indicts, as if armaments could be made overnight by a rub of Aladdin's lamp. 'Open a second front', he exclaims. Who does not want a second front, but the question is, how, when and where? He says 'statesmen and warriors are not infallible': but is he? He wants them to be 'whip-lashed by public opinion', forgetting that in a democracy there is a rod in pickle for all who go wrong.

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THE BATTLE-FRONTS (1) EGYPT. Once 'the time has come to take the offensive, it would be folly', said Smuts significantly, in LONDON on Friday last (October 21), 'to delay, over-prepare and perhaps miss the opportunity'. On the same day or very nearly—the British offensive started in full moon light in EGYPT. From the day General Auchinleck stopped Rommel's advance at EL ALAMEIN both sides had been busily preparing for a renewal of attack. Last month Rommel struck first but was repulsed. His sudden appearance at BERLIN on the day of Hitler's Winter Relief Speech was probably to report his failure and ask for further reinforcements. Hitler's reply was a renewed assault on MALTA—always a prelude to the rush of supplies across the Mediterranean and the Allied reaction was the continuous Anglo-American raiding of Axis supply bases from BENGHAZI to EL ALAMEIN and the British submarine attack on Axis convoys in the Mediterranean. GENOA, Rommels' supply embarkation post came in-for a severe pounding, so that, as a result of all this we may safely conclude a good-part of the intended reinforcements never reached Rommel. Yet with the recent addition of a new Italian division Rommel's strength had increased to 13 divisions amounting to a quarter of a million men. It was good to take the initiative before the enemy had become too strong. The present British advance is thus well-timed, having been started also before the end of the campaigning season in RUSSIA. This is the hour to strike.

The struggle, whether it is going to be local or general is going to be bitter. The front is narrow, bounded by the sea on one side and the Quattara depression on the other, restricting manoeuvrability. Both sides have dug themselves in and fortified in depth. While therefore rapid advance or other spectacular results are not to be expected the initial British advance is auspicious.

RUSSIA. Nemesis has again overtaken Hitler in RUSSIA. His boast that STALINGRAD will be taken has not yet come true. It is even possible that STALINGRAD may prove a stalemate. The battle has now degenerated into a mud war, with autumnal storms blowing over the city. It cannot be said that Hitler has not made any progress. After occupying the DZERJINSKY Tractor Works he has started attacking the October Red Steel Factory. German batteries are now close enough to the VOLGA to intercept supplies across the river.

The Germans also claim some advance towards TUAPSE. News has been received of a new thrust towards ASTRAKHAN.

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THE SOLOMONS. It is evident that the Japanese have rallied their forces on land, sea, and air, in the SOLOMONS area in a major effort to eject the Americans. Having learnt from their earlier failures that cruisers will not suffice they have brought battle-ships. Unable to concentrate at two points simultaneously they have gone to the defensive in NEW GUINEA. Their air strength is weak as may be seen from new aircraft being rushed to the front, fresh from the assembly lines; as well as from the second line fighter pilots being used. The present position is that while the Japs are still on GUADALCANAR Island they have so far failed to recover the air-fields.

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LE CREUSOT. The R. A. F. day-light raid on LE CREUSOT on October 17 was remarkable in several respects, whether we consider the weight, concentration, or effect of the attack or our own loss. 94 Avro-Lancasters went to LE CREUSOT and only one failed to return. Undoubtedly it was on of the heaviest raids yet made in day-light on an inland target and yet it lasted only seven minutes.

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THE EPIC OF MALTA. According to a statement made on October 21 by Sir Archibald Sinclair, Secretary for Air, in the House of Commons, MALTA had 1,660 raids up to October 19, loss of civilian life amounted to 1,386 up to September 20 and the number of buildings destroyed or damaged up to date was 6,704. The *Illustrated London News* gives the following details :

"Axis raiding has changed the skyline of Malta; church spires and belfries are missing, and there is not a single building of the Knights of St. John which has not been destroyed or damaged. The Governor's Palace and the Auberges of the knights have been completely or partially destroyed—the Auberge of Italy, the National Museum, is but a hollow shell—the famous

Opera House and many churches have been destroyed ; and down whole streets the facades of historic buildings face each other, apparently intact, but within there are merely piles of debris. Floriana, the immediate suburb of Valetta with its walled promenade gardens, has been devastated, and, after many escapes, the majestically towering church of St. Publins has been practically destroyed. The seaside resort of Sliema has suffered heavily, its large modern theatre being destroyed and three of its churches severly damaged. But all this ruin and devastation has not had the slightest effect on the military strength of the island fortress, and life goes on as before. Scarcely has the sirens note announced the end of another attack, when the people leave the shelters and pick up where they left off. Malta's toll of raiders is enormous ; 507 up to the middle of May, and with the grand total mounting daily. Air Chief-Marshal Sir Arthur Longmove said recently that "on the first day of war with Italy, Malta had not a single aircraft in commission ; now it is probably better defended for its size against air attack than any other place in the world." "More than three and a half centuries ago the banner of the knights of St. John defied the Turks from the Maltese fort of St. Anjel." says Sybil Dobbe " Who can say what gift of righteousness and peace the suffering of Malta to-day will help to bring to the world".

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THE SUBMARINE MENACE. From a recent statement of Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, it is learnt that since the War began 530 Axis Submarines have been either sunk or damaged. The figure is exclusive of those additionally sunk by the U. S. S. R. and by the French Navy before June, 1940. This is welcome news as the destructive capacity and range of the submarine have immensely increased since the last war. We do not know the rate of replacement of these infernal machines in the German dockyards but we do know that submarine crews are not so easy to replace. They are hard to find and harder to train.

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BATTLESHIPS. With the announcement now made of the Commissioning of *Anson* and *Home*, the strength of the British battleships of King George V class has risen to six, while Germany has only one battle-ship—the *Tirpitz*. The new ships are the first fruits of the new ship-building programme. Recently they convoyed the huge Russian supplies across the Arctic.

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MARTIAL LAW Has been introduced into SERBIA, the south-eastern half of YUGO-SLAVIA. Evidently repression, in spite of all its frightfulness has not succeeded. The patriot forces, some 150,000 strong under General Draga Mihailovitch were able, during the

year, to extend their operations into the puppet state of CROATIA. Whole villages were wiped out in reprisal and mass massacres followed. But the movement started as soon as King Peter left the country has grown from strength to strength. The Germans who called the patriots 'bandits' in the beginning now call them 'rebels' and have, in order to repress them, introduced the martial law.

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NAZI ROBBERY. According to Mr. Dingle Foot, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Economic Warfare FRANCE has been forced to pay 315 million sterling or about 300 million francs for the upkeep of the army of occupation for six months. This is one and a half times the French pre-war budget and more than twice the amount which GERMANY was asked to pay after the last war under the Young Plan. The real cost of occupation, of course, now is considerably lower than the amount demanded. The Nazis are said to use the balance to buy up the French factories.

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A STUDY IN SELF-CONTRADICTION. While we are not seriously interested in the re-shuffle of the Iraqi Cabinet which took place early in the month owing to internal squabbles we refer to it, however, as affording an instance of the crooked methods of Axis propaganda. In one enemy broadcast the dissolution of the old Cabinet was attributed to a 'grim dispute' between Naur Said, the Prime Minister of IRAQ and the British Ambassador, arising from Nauri Said's *anti-British* attitude ; while in another broadcast it is stated that for his *pro-British* attitude, he was driven out by the Iraqi patriots' It is also mentioned that he and his Colleagues had fled to LABANON and TURKEY and a new Cabinet composed of men of straw had been formed.

Nauri Said and his colleagues are still in BAGHDAD and compose the new Cabinet mostly. Nauri Said is Premier for the fifth time ; neither he nor his old followers have lost any of their popularity and suddenly become men of straw overnight. Anglo-Iraqi relations firmly established on the Anglo-Iraqi treaty continue to be happy. As *Al Iraq* wrote, 'the country responds with gratitude to the help given her by Britain in these exceptional world conditions'.

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ANGLO-TURKISH ALLIANCE. The celebration on Oct. 19 of the third anniversary of the Anglo-Turkish Alliance follows close on the recent visit to Turkey of Rear-Admiral Nomura and Vice-Admiral Abe, Japan's naval attachés in BERLIN and ROME respectively.

They are also members of the Japanese delegation to the Naval Committee of the Tripartite signatories. Their visit, which was presumably to earn Turkish good-will must have been also to sound the firmness of TURKEY'S neutrality. Evidently the Anatolian atmosphere not being to their liking they left it as quietly as they came.

Meanwhile the anniversary celebration has proved to be an occasion for the renewal of the bonds between TURKEY and BRITAIN, which, as President Inonu declared, as early as Nov. 1, 1940 are 'solid and unbreakable'. During the succeeding three years much waters flowed under the bridges and Nazi intrigues have done their worst; but the friendship has continued. On the occasion of the anniversary, the ANKARA Radio said 'all Turkey greeted BRITAIN, her sincere friend and ally'.

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LIBERIA. Here are some more details of LIBERIA where the Americans have landed troops. Early in the last century, the American Colonisation Society selected this place for the repatriation of the liberated Negro slaves. The founder of LIBERIA was Jahudi Ashmun, a white Ameriean. He settled in Cape MESURADO (now MONROVIA) in 1822. LIBERIA was proclaimed independent in 1847, when a constitution on the U.S.A. model was drawn up for her.

In 1925 an American tyre firm was granted a million acres of land to plant rubber, and to build harbours, railways and roads.

LIBERIA is one of the two Negro Republics in existence, the other being HAITI (WEST INDIES). MONRO is both the main port and capital. At its southern extremity lies Cape PALMAS, where U-boats are reported to be concentrated.

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ENEMY SHIPPING LOSSES. The following figures are revealing in view of the fact that the enemy has never yet published his own losses at sea.

GERMANY which owned a merchant fleet of 4,500,000 tons before the war has lost at least 4,000,000 tons by sinking, capture, or damage and has a further 250,000 tons laid up in central and south American ports. ITALY which had 3,500,000 has lost 2,366,000 tons and JAPAN which had 5,500,000 has lost 1,000,000 tons.

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THE TRANSPORT PROBLEM. With the loss of her shipping JAPAN is facing a serious transport problem. JAPAN has very few roads for traffic, so that her main communications have been by steamer, railway and aeroplane. Since she has now

run short of shipping, JAPAN is thrown entirely on the railway. This is the reverse of what is taking place in INDIA, where the ever-increasing use of the railway for war purposes has laid the emphasis on river and coastal transport. In JAPAN the preference has gone to the railway. It has been reported that she recently completed a tunnel between her main island of HONSHIN and KINSHU the main naval base, and that she is now planning a submarine railway to connect some more islands.

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THE JAP. AND THE MEIN KAMPF. It would appear that at great cost the Japanese are bringing out a translation of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. Let us hope it will be an unexpurgated edition; if not the *Jap.* would see himself portrayed as a thief of Aryan culture, whose inspiration would dry up within a few decades and whose civilisation would become fossilised as soon as the Aryan influence ceased. Hitler wrote the *Mein Kampf* when he did not bargain for partnership with the eastern imps.

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THE WOLF AND THE LAMBS. The following broadcast from BERLIN on October 8 betrays the nature of Japanese Co-prosperity.

'A few months of war have sufficed to convert JAPAN from a have-not into one of the best founded states in the world's economy. Greater East Asia does not only dispose of all industrial raw materials, but also guarantees JAPAN'S far-reaching food-autarchy.

'JAPAN herself will be the centre of all industries, while the other countries will more or less be raw material bases and agricultural hinterland. This calls for a regrouping of the population. Tentative plans have been drawn up in accordance with which 40 per cent of the Japanese will devote themselves to agricultural work, while in the Japanese overseas territories 80 or 90 per cent of the population will be engaged in agricultural activity.

In other words, the conquered people will feed their masters.

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SHANGHAI'S PLIGHT. According to the latest reports from CHUNGKING it has become difficult to get food in SHANGHAI and to get into and out of the city. A person who wishes to leave the city—if he can—is allowed to take with him only 3 yards of cotton cloth, 2 ounces of cotton yarn, 3 yards of woolen cloth or 5 small boxes of matches. A man arriving there must bring with him 20 eggs and a catty

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of tea. Most of SHANGHAI's cotton factories, a third of the silk mills and all the Chinese flour mills have been closed. Hungry men and women stalk the streets begging for food.

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THE RESOURCEFUL JAP. According to a fighting French soldier who has just reached ENGLAND from HONGKONG the Japanese are converting their tankers into aircraft-carriers, with at least 20 planes on deck, if not some more below deck, and are using their whaling fleet as submarine supply units.

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES. The recent utterance of Wavell that an early reconquest of BURMA was occupying his mind, coupled with his visit to the Burman frontier, and his meeting with Auchinleck, Stillwell at NEW DELHI has raised hopes of an early British offensive in BURMA. The monsoon having practically subsided the campaigning season has begun.

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AXIS AND MUSLIM. In the depths of their bottomless hearts the Axis Countries have discovered a sudden love for the Indian Muslims and feel highly concerned that a cruel Indian Government has for political reasons, prohibited, the usual Haj pilgrimage this year. The ulterior motive is said to be to prevent contact between Muslim INDIA and the Muslim world outside. But the facts are different. Last year 11,500 Haj pilgrims, that is, more than the total for the two previous years were provided with shipping accommodation, by the Government of INDIA, to facilitate the voyage by sea. But this year, with the appearance of the Japanese menace in the Arabian Sea, and the treacherous nature of the enemy,the sea-route has become unsafe. Hence the Government of INDIA'S Press Communiqué of October 2, which said, 'In view of existing danger from enemy action, to which pilgrim ships and their passengers would be exposed, the Government of INDIA have decided not to arrange the Haj pilgrimage by sea.' Note the last two words. The prohibition applies to the sea-route only and not to the land route, which BERLIN announced on October 10 ' had also been closed '. Note also the Press Note issued by the PUNJAB Government which says, ' There is no objection to pilgrims proceeding to the holy places of IRAQ or the HEJAZ *via* IRAQ this year. Passes will be issued to intending travellers.'

Representatives of the Port Haj Committees, members of the Central Haj Committee and other representative Muslims were consulted and agreed to the closure of the sea-route.

'PROTECTORS OF ISLAM'. Meanwhile it will be interesting to know what the Axis, the self-styled Protectors of Islam are doing to the Muslims in their own vassal countries. In ALBANIA the Muslim patriots led by Major Bajratari have risen in revolt unable to bear the yoke of the hated Italian invader. In BULGARIA, according to *Yeni Sabah* 95% of Bulgarian Muslims are unemployed. Large numbers walk the streets. The once prosperous bazaar at ISKECE is now a wilderness. Muslims who were engaged in the tobacco industry have been discharged and now work as road-builders. 10,000 Muslims have been transferred compulsorily from North AFRICA and the NEAR EAST to slave in the Nazi war factories.

MADRAS SQUADRON OF ROYAL AIR FORCE.

"WE ARE FIGHTING FOR YOU"

London, October 22.

I

THE SQUADRON'S EXPLOITS.

The Madras Squadron, which was re-formed in November, 1940, as a unit of the Bomber Command, was the first to be equipped with the four-engined Halifax aircraft.

One night in March, 1941, units of the Squadron took off for their first operation with this aircraft and, during the briefing, the following message was received from the Air Officer commanding their bomber group:

"Good wishes to the Madras Squadron and heavy weights on the opening of Halifax operations to-night. I hope the full weight of the Squadron's blow will still be felt further afield".

The good wishes were justified. The Madras Squadron has many times dropped its bombs on Berlin and the weight of its attack and accuracy of its bombing have been felt by Frankfurt, Cologne, Hanover, Kiel, Dusseldorf, Stettin, Mannheim, Nuremburg, Wilhelmshaven, Bremen and as far afield as Turin.

More than once the Squadron has been successful in daylight action. On June 30 last year successful attacks were made by both flights of the Squadron in daylight on Kiel and all bombs were seen to burst on the target.

On this occasion, the Chief of the Air Staff signalled: "I was delighted to hear of your most successful attack on Kiel today".

For this action over Kiel the Squadron received one bar to the D. S. O., one D. F. C. and two D. S. Ms.

ATTACK ON *Scharnhorst*.

The Squadron made another splendid daylight attack on the *Scharnhorst* at Lapallice. On their way to Lapallice the Squadron flying in V formation, unfortunately passed over an enemy destroyer, which signalled information of the approach of the Squadron.

By the time the Halifaxes reached the target some 30 fighters were waiting for them. The Squadron went forward to attack in echelon as planned. One aircraft was engaged in as many as 20 combats.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Bomber Command sent this message : "A magnificent day's work was executed with that characteristic dash and courage which the world now knows is the tradition of the Bomber Command. Well done".

During the thousand-bomber raid on Cologne the Madras Squadron was out. On that night the Squadron returned to England intact without the loss of a single aircraft.

II
WHAT WING COMMANDER ROBINSON SAID.

You will not find us, much occupied with thoughts of politics or high strategy.

But you will find that we are keenly aware of the importance of doing our best. You will find that behind our determination to fly with courage and strike our allotted target effectively, there is our knowledge of the consequences of war and the fact that the greater our effort the sooner will come the day when the keeping of our liberty and way of life will be truly secured.

Our daily problems lie with the bomb loads and the targets we take them to, with the aircraft, which carry bombs, and the engines which make this possible.

But when we have time for other thoughts, the deeper significance behind these tasks is not unknown to air crews and ground crews of the Bomber Command.

We know that although fighting from this aerodrome in the heart of England, we are part of that vast force of the Allied nations.

"TELL MADRAS".

We are fighting for Madras as well for our own home towns.

Thank the people of Madras for providing us with our Halifaxes. We hope we will be able to send back to Madras, together with our good wishes, a good report of us and our work.

THIS WAR IS A CRUSADE FOR MAN'S FREEDOM.

(*Field-Marshal J. C. Smuts*).

London, October, 21.

This war is really a continuation of the last war, and the intervening Armistice is a "period of feverish rest or unrest, of dreams and delusions." Mr. Churchill is the embodiment of the "spirit of the great undying nation in one of the greatest moments of history." A greater actor in the war drama is the British Commonwealth of Nations.

One occasionally hears idle words about the decay of this country, and the approaching break-up of the great world group we form. What folly and ignorance, what misreading of the real signs of the times.

There is no room for complacency. A mortal struggle is on, and "it will become more cruel and desperate."

The defeat of the *Luftwaffe* in the Battle of Britain "saved not only London and Britain, but the whole of the Allied cause and the future of the world". Baulked in the air attack on London, Hitler "saw that it was unsafe to attempt an invasion of Britain before first clearing his rear in Russia. The magnitude and duration of the Russian resistance have surprised not only Hitler but probably everybody else.

Probably no such losses on both sides have ever been suffered in the history of war. To the Russian, it must be terrible; it is equally true that the German Army is bleeding to death in Russia.

For Japan, just as for Germany, the writing is on the wall. All that will remain of the spectacular Japanese successes will be 'Japan for the Japanese.' For, Japan has infallibly sealed her own doom.

Pearl Harbour is at once a challenge to America, to the Western civilisation, and to the principles of good faith on which it is basically founded. In the long run, Japan will not be good enough, as an associate even, for Germany.

Will Japan launch a treacherous attack against Russia in Siberia? Time will show.

We have now reached the fourth year of this war.

The defence phase has ended, and the stage is set for an offensive. Resources have been developed and mobilised on a very large scale, and ours are still on the increase, while those of the enemy are on the decline.

THE RISING TIDE.

Our manpower is still growing, that of the enemy is getting depleted, while he makes ever heavier drafts on his suffering vassal peoples.

Want, hunger, and starvation are beginning to stalk through the subject countries, and the spirit of unrest is heaving and rising. The explosive limits of

endurance are nearing. We are approaching a point when both, on the War Fronts and the Home Fronts in enemy countries the situation is ripening for far-reaching developments.

So far, time has been in our favour and has, on the whole, been kind to us. In spite of heavy setbacks and many disappointments, we had the necessary time to prepare and parry deadly blows, and assemble and consolidate the forces and resources on which we rely for an Allied victory.''

This, at the bottom, is a war of spirit. " Hitler has tried to kill this spirit and substitute for it some *ersatz* thing something which is really its negation. He has instilled into the German youth a new racial fanaticism.

This war is now a crusade, a new fight to death for man's rights and liberties, for personal ideals of man's ethical and spiritual life.

To Nazi fanaticism we oppose this crusading spirit, which will not sheath the sword till Nazidom and all its works have been purged from this fair world."

THE DAY OF AVENGING IS NOT FAR OFF.

Mr. Churchill's Message to the Greeks, *London, October 27.*

It is two years on Wednesday since Italy's attack on Greece. The day of avenging is not far off.

A year ago to-day I expressed our gratitude for what the people of Greece had done and were then doing for the Allied cause.

Another year has passed during which the invaders of your land have tried by brute force and starvation to subdue the fires of Greek independence.

They have failed; and your courage and spirit in adversity remain a lively inspiration to the United Nations. Outside their own country the armed forces of Greece, Navy, Army and Air Force, are now once again in the field, already testing their growing strength in the face of the enemy and anxious for the day, not far off now, when they will be with you in avenging your present sufferings.

The British people greet you in admiration and sympathy and in the firm confidence that the day of freedom will surely dawn.

A MESSAGE TO THE YOUNG.

(*Mrs. Roosevelt—London, Oct. 27.*)

I look to your young people and to our young people to be the kind of people most of us would like to be and really to achieve some of the things we hoped to achieve 20 and odd years ago and which now we must achieve—as we will achieve—at the end of the war; and then hope to win the peace.

KALININ'S MESSAGE TO SOVIET YOUTH.

Build the Agricultural Front.

October, 22.

On the whole, the Soviet Army has proved not only equal to the enemy, but in many ways stronger. Undoubtedly, on so vast a Front, there are weak commanders, there are incapable commanders, but it is undeniable that the great majority of them are equal to their task.

Our losses, of course, are not small, but the Germans are losing more. All my investigations among military experts confirm this conclusion that the Germans are losing considerably more than we are. We must be greatful, in more ways than one, for the staunchness of the defenders of Stalingrad.

They fight well and set an example of how our land must be defended, how every inhabited locality must be defended.

On the other Fronts also, where the Germans are trying to assume the offensive, they are meeting with powerful rebuffs. The mightier our blows, the quicker will the Germans understand what awaits them in their banditry. Our Army is better equipped with technical material than it ever was, better than at the beginning of the war. This is unprecedented in Russian history. We produce so many guns that we are able not only to make good the loss of guns, but to have even a certain amount of reserves.

The most difficult task lies in the domain of our agriculture. The Germans have temporarily seized the Ukraine and the Kuban—these territories used to give the Union the largest proportion of its wheat for export. This fact has transferred to the eastern region all the burden of the struggle for bread. They must give their utmost output of bread. Everyone must work there, straining every muscle to the utmost of human possibility.

When we rout the Germans, and rout them we shall unfailingly, it will be for you, Soviet Youth, to restore what has been destroyed and build up the world of the future.

Remember, that success in the field of agriculture means victory in the important battle of this great war. Communist League boys and girls, I wish you success on the Agricultural Front.

H. E. THE VICEROY'S APPEAL FOR SUPREME EFFORT.

Quetta, October 22.

THIS IS A WAR OF ALL PEOPLE.

This is a war of all people, of every man, woman and child, in whatever walk of life, however far from the battle zone. Let each one of you remember that your individual effort, added to the joint effort of the many millions of

people of the United Nations, can shorten the war by bringing nearer the triumph of our arms, by a day, an hour, a minute. There is not a moment to be lost; for in modern warfare, which is total war, the hastening of victory by a day or an hour may mean the saving of hundreds or thousands of lives.

THE N. W. F.

The National War Front, which is gaining steadily in strength throughout India, is a Front on which you can all fight. Scotch idle rumour, and scorn the insidious and lying propaganda of the enemy. Build up a strong bulwark in your hearts, of confidence and resolution. Take courage from the certainties which are before your eyes.

THE TIDE IS TURNING.

We have been swimming against a strong current, but the tide is surely turning now. At one time we fought alone, but now look at the great peoples and armies of our Allies who are by our side; the people of the United States, of Russia, of China, and many others. Consider the mighty armaments which we are accumulating day by day and with which we shall soon outstrip and overwhelm the enemy. He is still strong and formidable, but he is becoming desperate, and his days are numbered. His strength is the strength of ruthlessness, oppression, cruelty and treachery; but our strength is the strength of all free men, and our cause is just.

HOLD ON.

Hold on then, grimly and with determination put every ounce of your strength, of body and mind, into a supreme effort, and you will find that the day is not far distant when we, with our Allies, shall sweep forward like an irresistible flood which will drown deep the forces of evil and wash the memory of their foulness for ever from the earth.

U. S. A. THE GREATEST ARSENAL OF ALL TIME.

(*Col. Knox. U. S. Secretary to the Navy, New York, October 28.*)

The United Nations must have predominant Navies after the war if peace is to be maintained.

The United States will produce munitions and more ship construction for war purposes next year than the total production for all purposes in 1940.

We have more than half a million men overseas and millions more in training.

It is the best-trained and best-equipped fighting force in our history.

" Naval personnel has more than doubled and we have a far larger and more powerful Navy measured in tonnage, air power, fire power, or anything else than the day before Pearl Harbour. We are producing merchant ships faster than the enemy can sink them. We are producing aircraft, bombs, and trained crews in such quantity that Germany has no longer an unchallenged mastery of the air.

We have converted the greatest peaceful industrial plant of all time into the greatest arsenal of all time.

"There have been mistakes but the miracle is that there have not been more. As the first year of our ordeal closes, we are coming into the realisation that strategy and military operations are jobs for experts in possession of all the facts. Our ranks of 130 million strong are closing up behind our commander-in-chief and other military leaders.

A LONG WAY YET.

We have a long way to go, to do properly our vast world-wide job of patrolling, escorting, and fighting on all seas. Submarines have taken an awful toll of our merchant ships and seamen, but bit by bit, American men and American material are piling up in front of the enemy.

We have not done enough for any of our Allies, but we have done what we could; and the time approaches when we can do far more—and we will. We have a long agonising road ahead of us. The men in the Solomons can tell you about that.

THE EVIL OF BERLIN AND MUNICH WILL BE TORN UP BY THE ROOTS.

(***Dr. Benes*** *on the eve of Czechoslovak Independence Day—London, Oct. 27.*)

Over 4,000,000 German soldiers have been killed or severely wounded up to the end of August. Germany's food position resembles that reached at the end of 1917.

"The world will soon hear Hitler, Goering and Goebbels swearing—as did Kaiser Wilhelm in 1918–that they never wanted this war and offering some agreement- But every speech will end with the desperate threat that should Germany fall, she will drag the whole Europe into destruction with her.'

"Allied nations, however, will not be intimidated. The evil of Berlin and Munich will be torn up by the roots. The guilty will be justly punished.

NO MORE PEARL HARBOUR ASSASSINATIONS.

(***Admiral William Leahy***—*Navy Day—New York—October 28.*)

The epidemic of inhuman warfare from which the world is now suffering is destined to be of long duration, involving for us, in America, deprivation and sacrifice beyond anything in our past experience. But we

face the choice between the destruction of our civilisation by barbarians, and the sacrifice of our treasure and blood necessary to destroy these armed savages.

Preservation of our American way of living produced by the toil and suffering of our fathers is dependent upon the complete defeat of the Axis. Any prospect of peace for our children demands elimination of those who are responsible for the present world agony, and who are leading their own people to their un-doing.

We must arrange to have in future no Pearl Harbour assassinations.

JAPAN CAN AND MUST BE DEFEATED.

Mr. Joseph Grew, New York, Oct. 27.

The following assumptions should be avoided, that Japanese cities are flimsy and cannot survive incendiary air-raids, that the Japanese can be starved into submission and that they are less formidable because they are not free.

The Japanese work well under orders. They are disciplined. They will not bend. They will fight until they can do it no longer.

Their cities are built to withstand earthquake shock, fire and concussion. Unlike Britain, Japan produces food for all her inhabitants. Japan is well-equipped for sea warfare but Japan can and must be defeated.

Our efforts cannot and must not be less than heroic. We cannot fight partially, tentatively and dubiously against men who are fighting body and soul under a frenzy of fanaticism exploited by a dictatorship.

TO THE BRITISH PEOPLE OUR DEBTS INCALCULABLE.

We owe much to the British Navy and the Royal Air force. They stood and held between the Nazis and us and the rest of the world. In the tragic June of 1940, it seemed that nothing but a miracle could save Britain. But a miracle did save her. It was a miracle of the people to whom nothing mattered but first to defend themselves, and then fight on to victory. To the British people our debts are incalculable.

OUR BRAVE RUSSIAN AND CHINESE ALLIES.

We can look no less to our Russian Allies to see the power of spontaneous solidarity. China has been unified. China has stood and held, and to China, too, we are profoundly indebted. Nothing else matters but winning the war and establishing a decent firm peace.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942— **LECTURE CXIX**—(*Batch 5*).

October ...	31, Saturday ...	Municipal Office quadrangle.	6.00 p. m.
November	1, Sunday ...	Kulavoippatti ...	7.00 p. m.
		Kilaiyur (South) ...	7.30 p. m.
	2, Monday ...	Tirumayyam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Melur ...	7.30 p. m.
	3, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Pallivasal ...	7.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam ...	7.30 p. m.
	4, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School)	10.15 a. m.
		Tiruvarangulam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Vamban ...	7.30 p. m.
	5, Thursday ...	Puliyur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi ...	7.30 p. m.

LECTURE CXX—(*Batch 1*).

	7, Saturday ...	Municipal Office quadrangle.	6.00 p. m.
	8, Sunday ...	Puvarasakudi ...	7.00 p. m.
		Venkatakulam ...	7.30 p. m.
	9, Monday ...	Perungalur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai ...	7.30 p. m.
	10, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Kiranur ...	7.00 p. m.
		Nanjur ...	7.30 p. m.
	11, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		College Tamil (Branch School.)	10.15 a. m.
		Arimalam ...	7.00 p. m.
		Kilanilaikkottai ...	7.30 p. m.
	12, Thursday ...	Malampatti ...	7.00 p. m.
		Perambur ...	7.30 p. m.
	13, Friday ...	Udayalippatti ...	7.00 p. m.
		Killukottai ...	7.30 p. m.

THE FOLLOWING PLACES WILL BE VISITED BY THE ADVERTISING PARTY OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU FROM 4 P. M. TO 5 P. M. ON THE DAYS NOTED BELOW. THE STATE BAND WILL PLAY; POSTERS WILL BE EXHIBITED; AND HAND-BILLS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EXPLAINED.

Saturday	...	31—10—42	...	Ponnamaravathi.
Sunday	...	1—11—42	...	Kodumbalur.
Monday	...	2—11—42	...	Kiranur.
Tuesday	...	3—11—42	...	Vadakadu.
Wednesday	...	4—11—42	...	Rayavaram.
Thursday	...	5—11—42	...	Kulipirai.
Friday	...	6—11—42	...	Pudukkottai.
Saturday	...	7—11—42	...	Vettamviduthi.
Sunday	...	8—11—42	...	Embal.
Monday	...	9—11—42	...	Viralimalai.
Tuesday	...	10—11—42	...	Perambur.
Wednesday	...	11—11—42	...	Karambakkudi.
Thursday	...	12—11—42	...	Kilanilai.
Friday	...	13—11—42	...	Pudukkottai.

NOTICE.

A WAR FILM

prepared by

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

and known as

A CONVOY ARRIVES

(IN TAMIL)

will be shown at

THE VALAMPURI TALKIES, PONNAMARAVATHI

FROM 6TH TO 9TH NOVEMBER, 1942.

The

National War Front Bureau Pudukkottai

recommends it

TO THE PUBLIC.

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